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LITTLE SWEETHEART.

THE MOCKING BIRD.

THERE IS A FLOWER THAT SLOOMETH, JOHN HONG KONG.

TRAMP! TRAMP! THAMP!

JOURNAY BET YOUR GOD.

MAGGIE MAY.

SEUMBER, BABY CARLING. CHIMING BELLS OF LOVE ACU.

MY SOUTHERN SUNTY HOME.

TAKE WE HOME.

MY NELLY'S BILLE EYES.

TAKE THIS LETTER TO MY MOTHER, HARD TIMES COME AGAIN NO MORE.

ANNIE LAURIE. 15 CHOOSE TO SE A DAISY. Love's Young DREAMS OUR MARRIAGE BELLS ARE RINGING. OFT IN THE STILLY MIGHT. LOVE'S RITCHAELLA. MY PRETTY JAME.

WART THE THE CLOUDS ROLL . BELL BRANDOY.

Massas in et Cole Ground.

NO ONE TO LOVE,

COMIN THEO' THE RYE.

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MOLLY BAWN.

DEM GOLDEN SHOES.

OLD JOHNNY BAKER. ALL FOR THE BEST.

BONNIE DUNDEE.

DE DARKIES HAB DE FLO.

I LOVE BUT THEE.

WHY ART THOU SAD.

BLUE BELLS OF SCOTLAND.

ROSA LEE. DON'T FORGET TO WRITE ME. PEEPING THROTHE CELLAR DOOR. THE GLENDAY BURK.

VALLEY LAY SMILING BEFORE ME. OH DEM GOLDEN SLIPPERS.

PRETTY AS A PICTURE.

WHEN THE SWALLOWS.

ROBIN ADAIR.

IN THE MORNING BY THE BRIGHT. GO TO SLEEP, MY BABY GIRL.

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DANGING IN DE COTTON FIELDS. | DINAH WALKIN' FOR DE CAKE.

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DALLAS

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MID DE COTTON.

DE PICCANNINIES CAKE WALK.

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THE JUNO SCHOTTISCHE.

THE PROTEUS POLKA.

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HLLSE'S QUICKSTEP.

HORAGE WESTON'S JIC.

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THE LITTLE WONDER J.C.

THE FLORENCE MAZURKA.

THE FAIRLAWN SCHOTTISCHES

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TEXAS BARN DANCE.

SNOW QUEEN WALTZ. SCHAEFFER'S JIC. INDIAN PATROL.

MARCH OF THE ROYAL BLUES.

FAIRY REVELS.

4

Beyond the fact that the Banjo (under the name of BANJO) came into prominence (first in America) in 1842, nothing authentic is known of its actual origin. In England it has been nearly always _ not always _ identified with imitation (and real) negro minstrelsy. Few, if any stringed instruments can be traced back to white-skinned originators. But we do know that a certain instrument _ the Banjo _ was christened, naturalized or nationalized, nurtured, musically prescribed for, developed and somewhat perfected, in America. In England we took on with the Banjo later (that is, from 1842 onwards) and in recent years the professional players, composers and journalists here have exerted every endeavour to promote Banjo interests and to obtain, due, unprejudiced recognition for the instrument on its own peculiar merits.

It must never be forgotten or overlooked by those who have the welfare of the Banjo at heart that the instrument has had it ups and downs and still survives. It was once (1887, Queen Victoria's first Jubilee) at its height as a national craze before it was really ripe for such. Then it dropped to normal pitch to make room for Bicycling, Ping-pong. Bridge, Motoring, Picture-puzzles, Limericks and other foibles that, for their time, more or less disorganized national as well as Banjo interests. And now we find the instrument, having stood the test of time and of tribulation, again coming to the front.

One of the largest illustrated London papers, which circulates in the principal Clubs and aristocratic institutions in Great Britain, said, in commenting upon summer resort entertainments, that "The most successful teams (troupes) are those in which the Banjo predominates." THE SPHERE, Aug. 17th 1904.

A certain American Society of Musicians which had been granted a charter by the United States Government (-Incorporated by Act of Parliament - we would say, in England) held, at Washington, U.S.A. its seventh annual convention of delegates on May 6th 1908, and was received by President Roosevelt at his official residence, the "White House". The name of this society is THE AMERICAN GUILD OF BANJOISTS, MANDOLINISTS AND GUITARISTS _ which means 'the Banjo to the front'.

In 1906 there were 36 Banjo turns on the music hall stage in England, exhibiting the instrument night after night, week after week, year in and year out to more than thousands of people. London and Provincial music hall managers are responsible for this advanced state of affairs. Do they or do they not know what they are about? Keen, shrewd, busy men and alert, as they are universally known to be, they are providing an increasing number of Banjo turns for their patrons. Surely this is a sign of the times. Some of us know that many of these Banjo turns do not present the instrument to best advantage to the public; but it must be remembered that the public generally attend entertainments for amusement and not so much to criticise. The verdict of an audience of Banjoists would necessarily be different from that of the public who are not familiar with nor interested in the technics of Banjo-playing.

The man who is accredited with having been the first to attract notice to the Banjo was an American named Joe Sweeney (born 1813) _ a perhaps wayward member of a white Virginian family of estate and means, who assumed the character of a negro impersonator, and, after he had exploited the instrument throughout the United States, arrived with it in England in 1842. The assertion that the Banjo is of Ethiopian birth or origin can neither be proved nor disputed on our present available knowledge. On many occasions, nevertheless, it has been favoured by the honour of Royal patronage at home and abroad. The position of the Banjo to-day is that of one which is being treated seriously on a musical basis and as a source of legitimate profit to those who embrace it. It has so far advanced as to be included in the curriculum of several incorporated musical institutions. Those, in high places, who still pretend to regard it only as a "toy" do so to serve their own monetary benefit rather than the best interests of the Banjo. They are retarding the progress of Banjoism.

London, 1908.

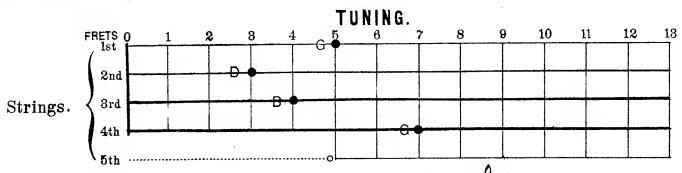
PUBLISHERS' NOTE.

The ever increasing demand for a Banjo instruction book that will satisfy the new requirements of that instrument has led us to have our "Modern School" brought right up-to-date. Prominent English teachers will observe that their individual expressions of opinion have been duly respected. The work of revision has been entrusted to a capable editor whose authority on technical Banjo matters is generally recognized.

We now hope the modernized edition will fulfil the purpose for which it is obviously intended.

The Publishers.

The Banjo, or more precisely the American Banjo, has four gut strings graduated according to pitch, and one of silk which is wire spun i-e, covered with fine copper wire. For climatic reasons specially drawn steel wire strings, and strings of composite material, are sometimes substituted for gut. Its sister instrument, also originally American, called the Zither-Banjo, resembles the Banjo so far as the general principles of manipulation, and number and tuning of strings are concerned. In its English improved form it has necessarily steel strings, (1st 2nd and 5th.) The touch, or manner of plucking the strings differs somewhat from that of the Banjo. Its best exponents are found amongst those who pick with suitably trimmed nails instead of the finger tips.



If a G pitch-pipe or tuning-fork is not available strike G. on the Piano and tune the 3rd string in unison with it.

Press the 3rd string at B and tune the 2nd string in unison.

D G 2nd1st" 99 " 99 5 an1st22 G(to test whether it is lower or higher than the 3rd string,)

and tune in unison. HOLDING THE BANJO.

The Banjo should be held as steady as possible so that its arm or handle cannot waver. To insure this end it is advisable, especially with the beginner, to cross the left knee over the right, resting the instrument in the lap and against the breast. When so placed it may easily be kept in position without the contact or aid of either hand, which, in itself, is conducive to freedom of action.

THE POSITION OF THE HANDS.

THE RIGHT HAND. Rest the 2nd finger on the 1st string about 2½ inches from the bridge; the 1st finger on the 2nd string about 3 inches, and the thumb about 4 inches. Then allow the 4th finger to drop on the vellum as it most naturally would. This position of the hand affords more scope for execution than any method previously advocated.

THE LEFT HAND There are essentially two positions or postures of the left hand. First, when only the fingertips stop the strings; second, when a Barré (page 21) is taken up. Regarding the first: Place the

fingertips on the strings thus: -

1st Finger, 1st Fret, 1st String. 2nd " 2nd 2nd 3rd 3rd 3rd

and throw the wrist (not the hand) well away 4th 4th 4th from the body. The ball of the thumb, which must be turned outwards from the handle, will rest between the first and second frets. When the position of the left hand is taken up properly there should be a small triangular space under the handle. The thumb is not used for gripping purposes but rather to resist the pressure of the fingers when stopping the strings. With respect to the Barré posture: Press four fingers at four consecutive frets on the same string and keep them there. Now throw the wrist away from the handle until the ball of the thumb comes directly under the second finger. Release only the first finger and endeavour to press down two, three, or four strings with it. It is important to observe that this Barré is not made with the fleshy under surface of the finger, but with that edge or side of it which is nearest the tuning-pegs. The barring finger must be as nearly as possible parallel with the fret.

STYLES OF PLAYING.

There are five principal methods of performance on the Banjo. In order of development they are: _THIMBLE STYLE. Considering it now almost obsolete, it has been extracted from this work. PIZZICATO or PICKING, which is the most universal at present.

SOSTENUTO, which, when dexterously performed renders the Banjo a complete solo instrument without the aid of a pianoforte or other instrumental accompaniment. Probably the most musically ef-

fective style.

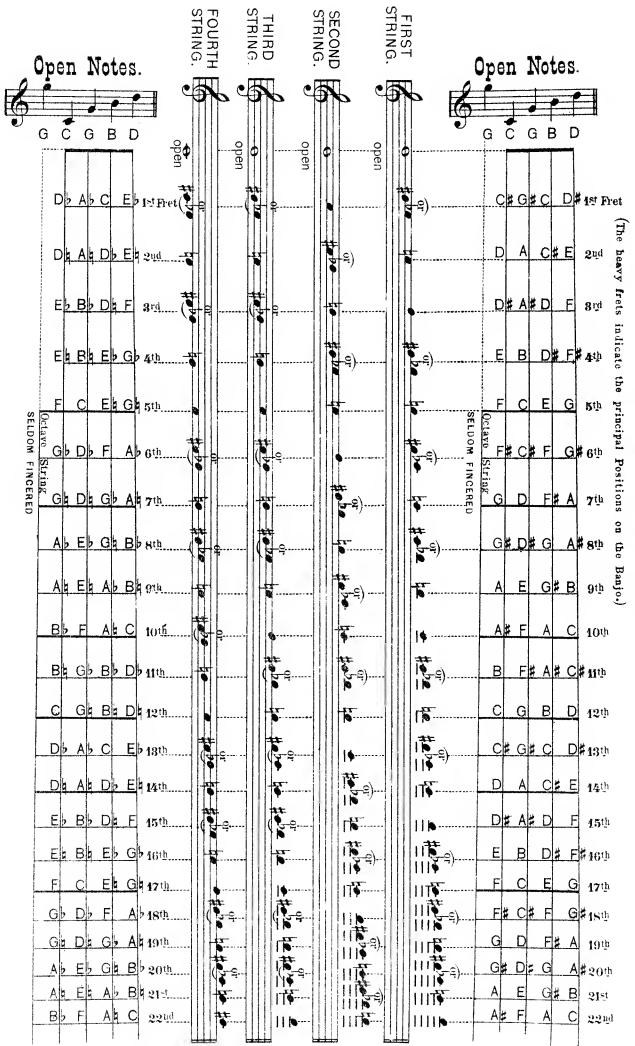
PLECTRING, which has won its way into popularity in spite of extreme prejudice. It is met with in two forms, viz:- the old, or Tremolo, and the new, or Technique. The latter style being most ef-

fective for public performance with orchestral accompaniment.

ALLA SPAGNOLA or SPANISH STYLE. The least-developed of the five methods. It is a very florid and showy style, particularly effective in concert hall performance. Its employment is principally confined to very expert performers.

COMPLETE CHROMATIC FINGERBOARI

J. E. DALLAS.



J. E. DALLAS' MODERN SCHOOL

FOR THE

FIYE-STRING BANJO.

THE RUDIMENTS OF MUSIC.

THE STAVE CLEFS AND NOTES.

Musical sounds are written by characters termed Notes on and between five lines called a Stave. The notes are named after the first seven letters of the Alphabet A. B. C. D. E. F. G. Names of the notes on and between the lines of the stave:-





Notes extending above or below the stave are written on short lines termed Ledger lines. and spaces.





The sign placed at the commencement of the stave, and termed a Clef, serves to determine the pitch of the notes. Of clefs there are several, but only one is used in Banjo music_the Treble or G Clef, so called because the curl or tail falls upon the second line.



Different forms of notes are used to indicate the different duration of sounds:

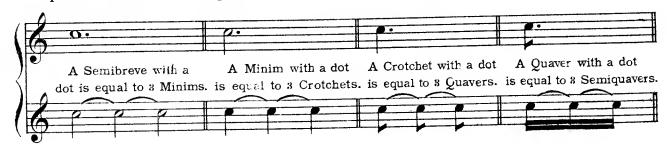


The proportion they bear to each other is explained by the following table:



DOTTED NOTES.

A dot placed after a note prolongs it by one half, thus:

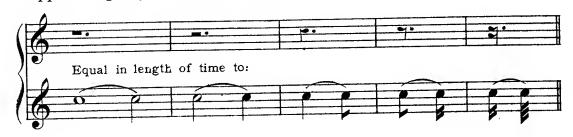


RESTS

are characters which indicate silence. The duration of each rest is equal to the note of the same name.



The dot applies equally to rests, thus:



BARS.

Upright lines intersecting the stave, thus: are termed "bars," and are used for the purpose of dividing the notes into equal portions of time.

Two upright lines placed thus: are termed "double bars," and are used to denote the end of a strain (or piece) of music. When two dots are placed at each side of the double bar, thus: they denote that each part is to be repeated.

TIME.

Common time is indicated by the character ${f C}$, which is placed after the clef, and counts four beats in a bar, thus:



Alla Breve or Half Common time signified thus C, counting two beats in a bar thus:



In "Two-four" time $\frac{2}{4}$ count two, or four in a bar, according as the music is marked fast or slow, by the words *Allegro*, *Andante*, &c.

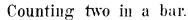


"Triple Time" is expressed by the figures $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{8}$ thus:



"Compound common" time, counting four in a bar.









Compound triple time-counting three in a bar:



Triple time, counting three in a bar (crotchets):



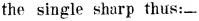
Counting three in a bar (quavers):



SHARPS, FLATS, AND NATURALS.

When a sharp (#) is placed before a note, it indicates that the note, and all notes bearing the same name in the bar, are to be raised a semitone or half a tone_unless contradicted by a natural (\$\pi\$) which restores them to their original sound. When a flat (\$\pi\$) is placed before a note, it indicates that the note, and all notes bearing the same name in the bar, are to be ke wered a semitone or half a tone, unless contradicted by a natural, (\$\pi\$) which restores them to their original sound. (This is as far as it is necessary for the Student to go when commencing this work.)

A Double Sharp (x) raises the note another semitone above the one already raised by

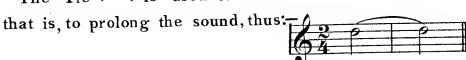




The Phrasing Slur placed over a series of notes, indicates that they are to be played, in a smooth or flowing style. When dots are placed over the notes thus:

that the notes are to be played in a short and crisp style; the word staccate having a similar meaning.

The Tie is used to bind a note in one bar to a similar note in the next:-



A "Triplet" is denoted by the figure 3 being placed over a group of three notes, and which are to be played in the time that two notes would occupy, thus:__



The Appoggiatura or Grace note is a small note placed before a principal note and used as an embellishment. It takes one half of the value from the note which it precedes; written thus:

And one fourth from the value of the note which it precedes when written thus:—



Another grace note called the Acciaccatura, is a very short note_a small dash is placed through the stem, and it affects the note it precedes, thus:-



It is reckoned to have no appreciable time value.

FINGERING SIGNS.

Left Hand. (L.H.)

- 1 = FIRST FINGER.
- 2 = SECOND FINGER.
- a = THIRD FINGER.
- 4 = FOURTH FINGER.
- o = OPEN STRING.

Right Hand. (R.H.)

- . = FIRST FINGER.
- .. = SECOND FINGER.
- x = Thumb.

PRELIMINARY EXERCISES ON THE OPEN STRINGS.



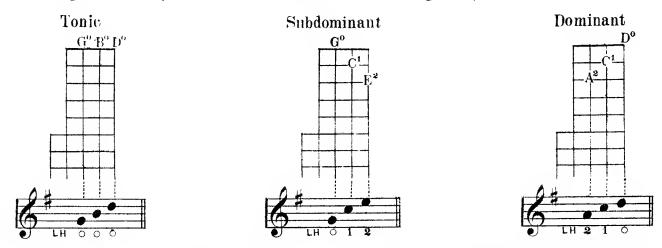
NOTE. Instead of commencing in the natural key of C as is usual, the student is first directed to the scale and exercises in G as that key permits of easier left hand fingering.

THE SCALE OF G MAJOR.



The figures in the above scale are for the fingers of the left hand, which also correspond with the frets upon which the fingers are placed.

The following exercises are framed on three chords termed the Tonic, Subdominant and Dominant. (The diagrams are given to show the left hand fingering.)



In every Key there are three Changes (chords). The above are called the three changes in the Key of G.

EXERCISE.
(Introducing fingering of chords in Key of G.)



EXERCISE.

IN TRIPLETS.

(Sometimes called "In Rolling Style")



EXERCISE.

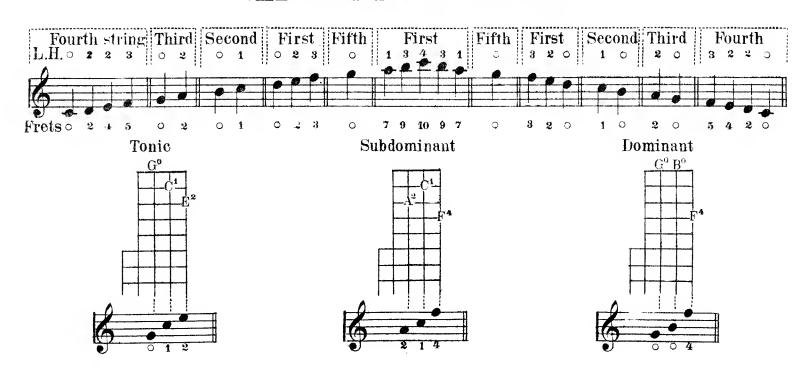
(In Rapid Notes)





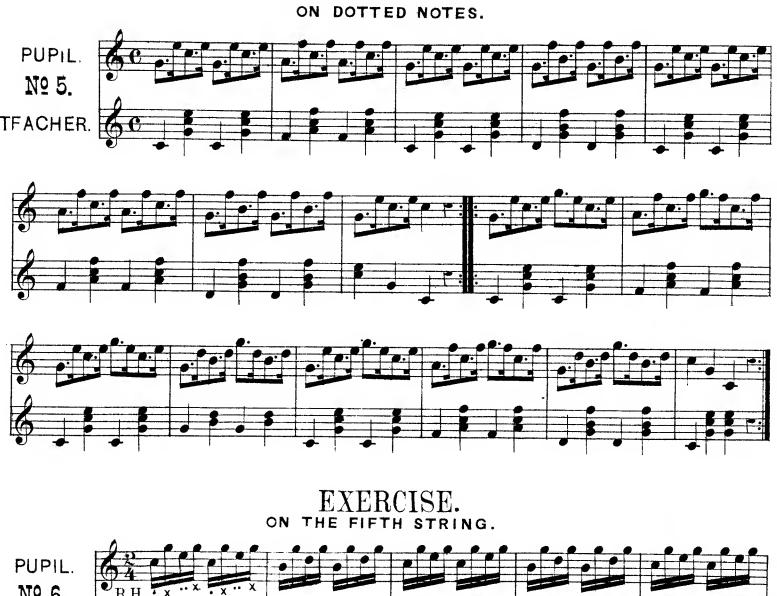


THE SCALE OF C MAJOR.



DALLAS' modern school for the Banjo.

EXERCISE.





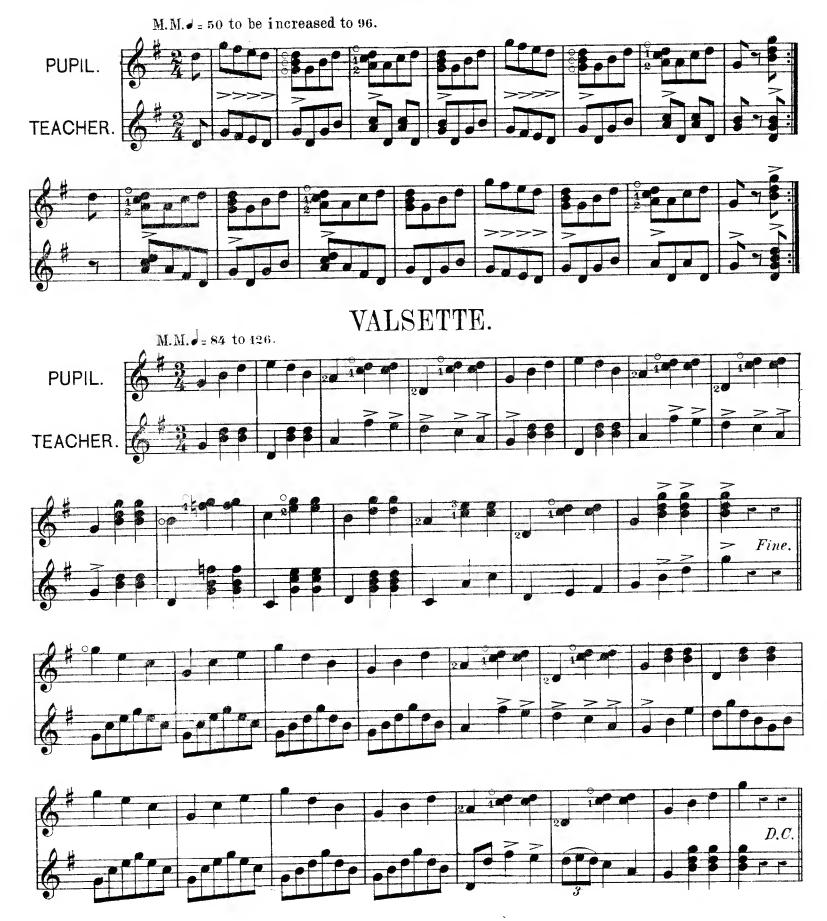
★ The fourth finger is placed across the first and second strings at third fret, which makes the note D. on the second string and F. on the first.

DALLAS' modern school for the Banjo.

EASY LESSONS IN G AND C.

BARCELONA.

SPANISH DANCE.



HOLDING THE FINGERS DOWN.

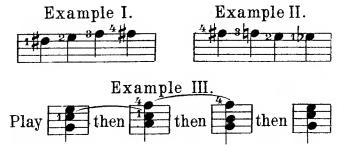
The teacher should point out the importance 1. Of keeping the fingers down (on the strings) when they are down, for the full value of each note; and 2. At just a sufficient distance away (from the strings) to prevent interference with vibration.

In Scale Passages.

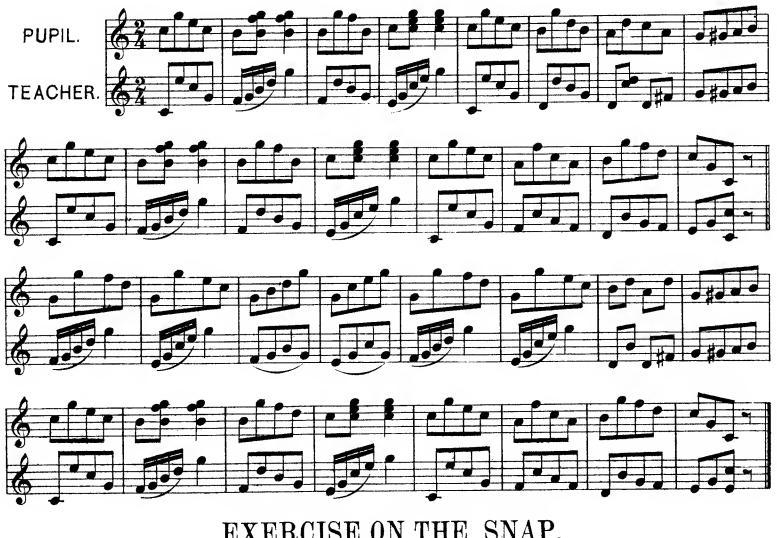
Put the four fingers down, one after the other (as in Example I) and keep them down for a moment. Then release them, one by one, (as in Example II).

In Chord Passages.

The notes to be held down with each change of chord are indicated by a curved line (as in Example III).



PLANTATION DANCE.







MAY DAY SCHOTTISCHE.



POOR OLD JOE.



MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME.



* This air is intended to make the beginner better acquainted with the higher notes of the scale in C Major.

A MINOR.

RELATIVE OF C MAJOR.

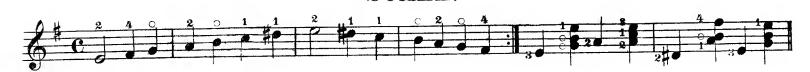
SCALE.



EXERCISE.



E MINOR. ONE SHARP (F#) RELATIVE OF G MAJOR. SCALE.

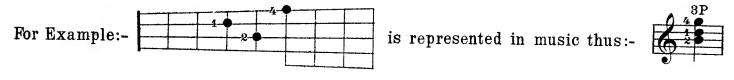


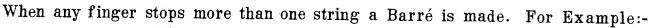
EXERCISE IN E MINOR.

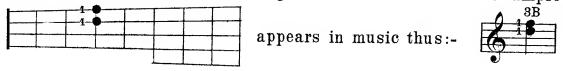


POSITION, BARRÉ AND POSITION-BARRÉ.

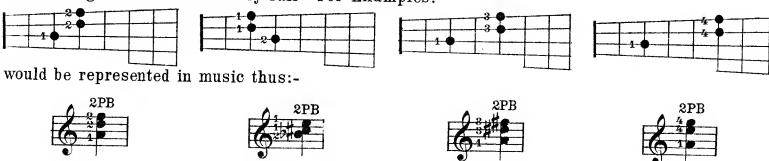
When the instrument is held in the hands ready for action, a Position, or more precisely, a Fret-Position is said to be taken up. The number of the Position is determined by the number of the fret at which the first finger does (or might most conveniently) fall.







When another finger stops a string besides that which is making the Barré, a Position-Barré is taken up. The number of a Position-Barré is determined, not necessarily by the number of the fret at which the Barré is made, but by the number of the fret at which the first finger does or might most conveniently fall. For Examples:-



The Principles of Chord-Fingering are based upon the Position, the Barré and the Position-Barré. Banjo music is not constructed on scales so much as on chords or chord-fingerings. Hence a full practical knowledge of the chord-fingerings is more essential to the Banjoist than is expert familiarity with scale-work. Rapid scale practice should not therefore be entered upon until the principles of chord-fingering are well mastered. (They are more fully dealt with on page 57).

Let the student examine the following examples and he will see at a glance the way much of Banjo music is built up:



When once the fingers are set for a chord the picking may be varied at pleasure, as each of the three lines above will show.

THE MERVAN SCHOTTISCHE.



THE BAND PARADE.

MARCH.



DALLAS' Modern School for the Banjo.



DALLAS' Modern School for the Banjo.



The small notes do not take any value off the note upon which they roll, but from the note, rest or bar which precedes them

This pretty style of playing requires a considerable amount of practice to obtain the necessary rapidity to make it effective. It consists of a rapid repetition of a single roll (ascending, descending or otherwise) and occurs most frequently in triplet form.

EXERCISES. BREAKDOWN. HERBERT J. ELLIS. Allegretto.

*Example "Belle Vue Schottische. H. Emmet.

DALLAS' modern school for the Banjo.

Passing the thumb or finger from one string to the next is termed the Glide or Pass. The thumb must pass from one string to the next without making two separate strokes. It is indicated thus:-x-x for the thumb, and .-. for the finger.



REPEATED NOTES.

The following exercises for learning to alternate with the fingers on the same string are specially designed as an aid to rapid execution. By their constant practice a powerful and uniform touch will be obtained.



JOHANNESBURG DANCE.

(Exercise in the Snap, Slur & Alternate Picking)



NOTE. A figure placed in a ring as in the above Dance indicates the string on which the note is to be played DALLAS' Modern School for the Banjo.



THE SLIDE.

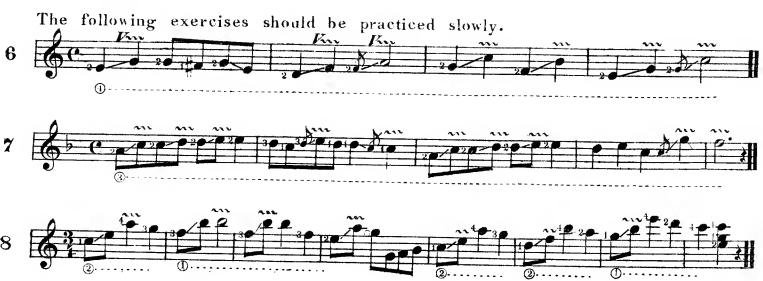
This pretty effect is obtained by sliding from one note to another. It is performed by stopping one of the notes with a finger of the left hand, then striking it in the ordinary manner with the right, and, while the string is vibrating slide the same finger to another fret; taking care to keep the string pressed to the fingerboard so as to carry the sound to the second note without striking the string again. The Slide is performed both ascending and descending and is indicated by a dash or light line between the two notes, not above or below them—as in the case of the Snap or the Slur.

NINE LESSONS ON THE SLIDE.



VIBRATO.

In the next exercises a pretty effect is obtained called Vibrato. It is made while stopping the string and rapidly shaking the hand to and fro, which causes an oscillatory motion of the finger and produces the tone in waves or pulsations. Used in conjunction with the slide, it has a dainty and fascinating effect on the banjo, and a little diligent practice will well repay the student. It is indicated by the sign w, or V





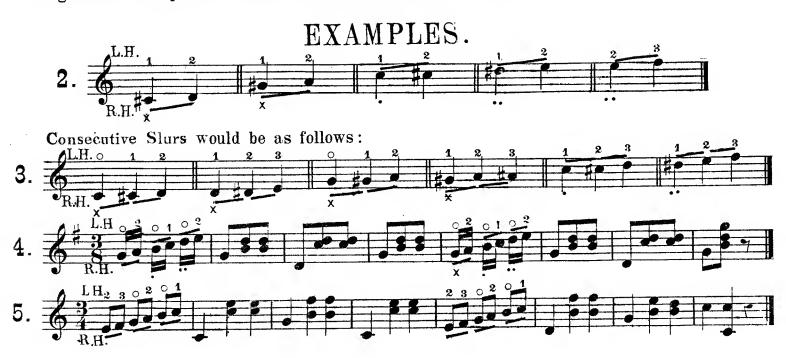
THE SLUR.

The Slur is another pretty effect which is obtained as follows: ____ Pick the fourth string C open with the right hand and while the string is vibrating let the second finger of the left hand fall sharply, like a hammer on the next note D, two frets higher, which will be produced without the string being picked a second time.

FIVE LESSONS ON THE SLUR.



The Slur is also obtained from a stopped note in which case the finger stopping the string must be kept down until after the slur has been made. Indicated /



The Student should now learn the scales and pieces in the different keys, thoroughly practising each one before proceeding to the next. Those keys, which usually present a little difficulty, have been specially arranged so that they may be learnt with the same ease as the others. One special object served in the study of scales from music, is that it helps the student to a note-knowledge of the fingerboard.

F MAJOR. ONE FLAT (Bb).



TIP-TOE POLKA.



DALLAS' Modern School for the Banjo.

MELODY IN F.

EXERCISE FOR THE THIRD STRING.



ROMANCE IN D MINOR.



$D\ MAJOR\ .({\tt TWO\ SHARPS},({\tt F\#and\ C\#}))$





EXERCISE.



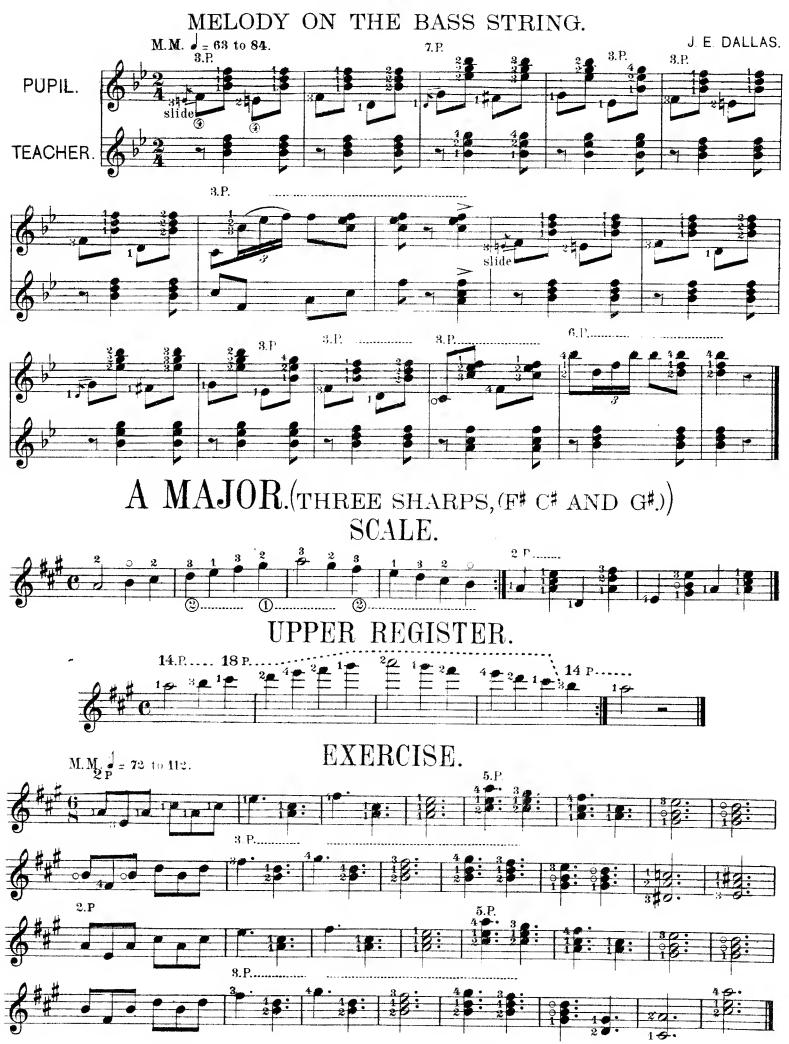
DALLAS' Modern School for the Banjo.

B MINOR. TWO SHARPS, F# AND C#. RELATIVE OF D MAJOR.

SCALE.



EXERCISE.



DALLAS' Modern School for the Banjo.





F# MINOR. (THREE SHARPS, (F#, C# AND G#.)) RELATIVE OF A MAJOR.

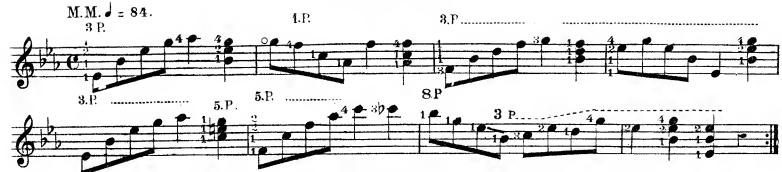












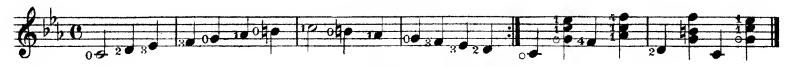
EXTRACT FROM HORACE WESTON'S JIG.

M.M. = 50 to 76. SECOND MOVEMENT.



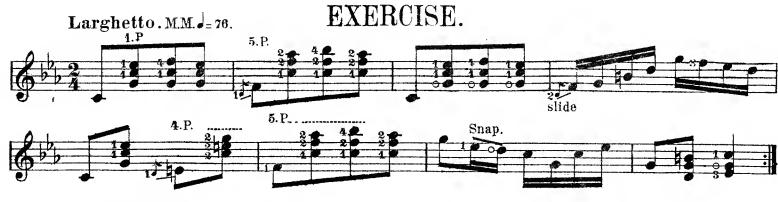
C MINOR. THREE FLATS, B' E' AND A'. RELATIVE OF E' MAJOR.

SCALE.



HIGHER REGISTER.



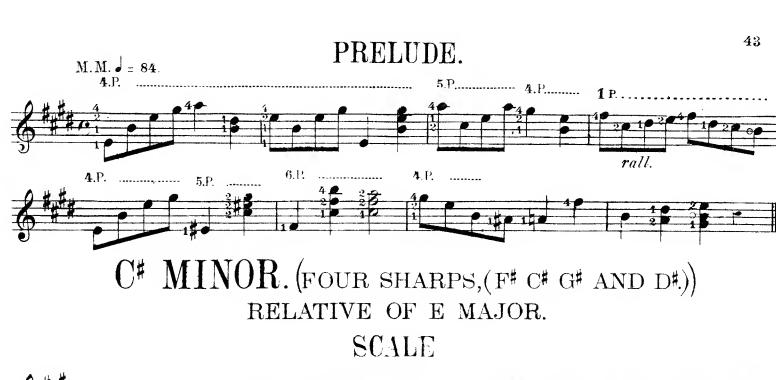


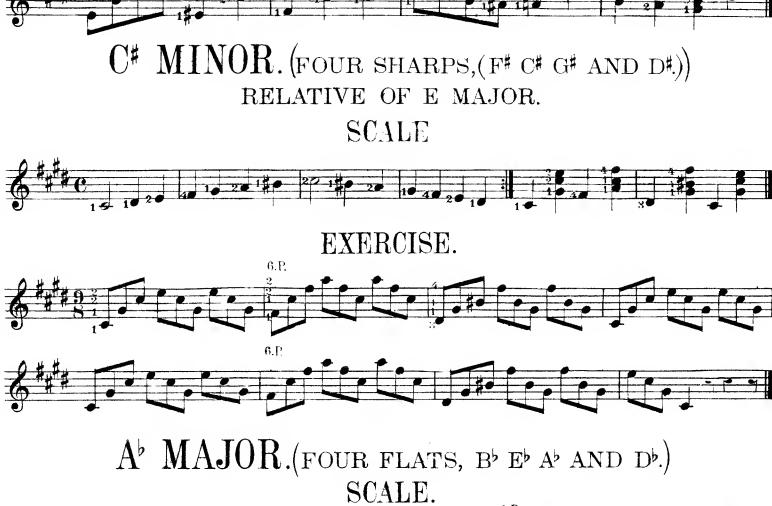


DALLAS' Modern School for the Banjo.









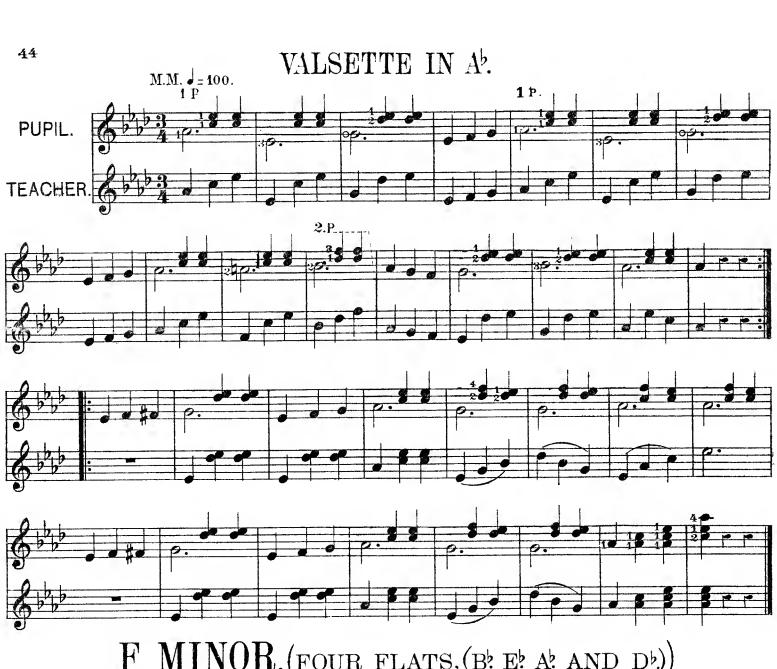












F MINOR. (FOUR FLATS, (B' E' A' AND D'))
RELATIVE OF A' MAJOR.



NOTE. There are other keys which have not been treated on, as they are unnecessary for the present work and very seldom used.

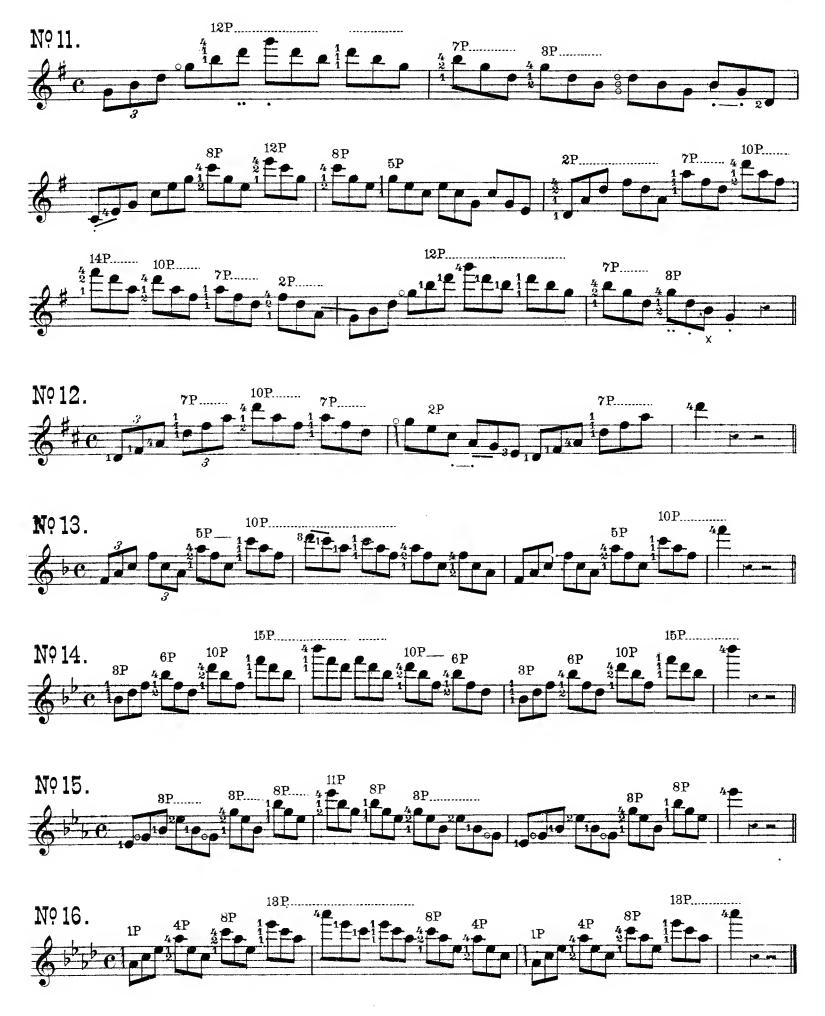


EXERCISES IN ARPEGGIOS.









ACCOMPANIMENTS.

EXPLANATORY.

There are three chords in each Key, termed the TONIC, SUBDOMINANT and DOMINANT By modulating, (passing from one Key to another) the following table of Major and Minor chords will be found sufficient for playing ordinary accompaniments. These three chords which are found in every key (both major and minor) are described, by ear-players, as the "three changes." The student should get his ear accustomed to the sound of the changes by playing from the music repeatedly one line at a time.

Let the student play, by itself, the melody line below marked voice until memorized. Then let him hum the melody (or sing the syllable $l\alpha$ to each note) to his own accompaniment:-



The above will serve as a model for each of the keys following.

ACCOMPANIMENTS IN ALL KEYS.

MAJOR AND MINOR.





For accompaniments in more advanced form refer to Dallas' Star Banjoi Accompanist' (Kennedy)

HARMONICS.

A very pretty effect can be produced from the banjo by gently checking the vibration of its open strings at certain points which are called "nodes". These nodes are situated at the middle of any open string, i-e., at the 12th fret, also at the 5th, 7th, and 16th frets of the long strings and at the 17th fret of the short one.

If the 4th string be set in full vibration and then touched for an instant with a needle point or with a left hand finger exactly at the middle of its length, the sound will be an octave

above that of the open string.

LEFT HAND HARMONICS.

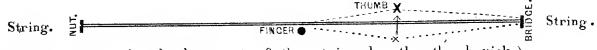
Harmonics are generally classed according to their method of production, whether vibration is checked by the left or the right hand fingers.

The sign or symbol for the former is LH or H followed by the number of a fret, and for the latter RH, similarly.



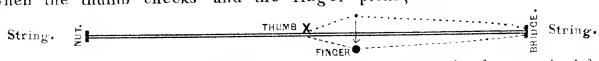
RIGHT HAND HARMONICS.

There are two different methods of executing Right-hand Harmonics. I. When the first finger checks vibration and the thumb picks, thus:-



(The dotted line shews the displacement of the string by the thumb pick.)

II. When the thumb checks and the finger picks, thus:-



No: It is more easily acquired, whilst the hand remains in the usual picking position. Harmonics which are picked close to the nodal points are much brighter and more telling than those picked at a distance from them. No II. allows the finger and thumb to come closer together than does No I.





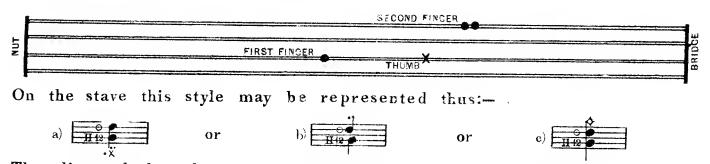
RIGHT HAND HARMONICS ON STOPPED STRINGS.

The 12th fret is the middle of the first string open, but if the string is stopped by a finger at the 1st fret, its middle is at the 13th fret, at which point vibration must be checked. The performer must take note of what fret a left hand finger is situated, and add twelve to determine the checking point. For Example:— If a finger is at the 4th fret the checking point will be at the 16th fret. Of course stopped string harmonics can be obtained elsewhere than at the middle of the string.



RIGHT HAND HARMONICS WITH ACCOMPANIMENT.

The right hand harmonic is made according to method Nol, but additional right hand fingers are used to pick other strings at the same time as the harmonic is being executed; as the following diagram will exemplify.



The diamond-shaped note is the actual sound of the harmonic. For a Solo introducing this style of Harmonic see "Old Black Joe". (See Ballas' Banjo List)

When two notes are to be played besides the harmonic note, the higher note will be pulled with the third finger, and the lower note with the second finger thus:

SOSTENUTO

FINGER-TREMOLO WITH THUMB ACCOMPANIMENT.

This pretty and fascinating style of banjo-playing finds favour with every lover of the instrument. It is really more difficult to acquire than it is to execute after acquirement. The art of Sostenuto-Playing is capable of much more development than can be exposed in the few pages available in a general work of this kind. It will therefore be sufficient, for present purposes, to treat upon the subject only in an elementary manner. (The more popular name for the Sostenuto method of playing is Self-Accompanied Style.)

To commence practice demands a fair grounding in banjo study, and should not be entered upon until the student has comprehended the principles of chord-fingering as

explained on page 57.

THE POSTURE OF THE RIGHT HAND.

Rest the little finger on the vellum, to steady the hand, in the usual way. Place the first finger on the first string, say two inches from the bridge. Hold the thumb against the second or other string about three inches from the bridge. Now, commence to move the first finger to and fro as far as possible in each direction, taking care that in its actions it does not touch the thumb.

The movement of the finger in this respect is indicated for instructional purposes by the signs u = Down (or nail) stroke, and \(\lambda = Up \) (or flesh) stroke.

In proper printed music the letter "S" followed by a wavy line, thus Sun, placed over a note or notes has been adopted as the Sostenuto Sign or Symbol. It is however frequently represented by true, or by the word tremolo, or by several heavy lines drawn through the stems of the notes which have to be sustained or tremoloed.

The object of the movement is to sustain rather than to tremolo notes _ hence the term Sostenuto. But Sostenuto, comprehensively defined in its application to the banjo, includes thumb accompaniment when necessary.

EXERCISES.

Before commencing the first four exercises below, hold the thumb steady against the second string and clear of the first finger, as directed above.



After going through the above commence over again reversing the order of the strokes, i.e.-begin with the down stroke μ instead of the up stroke Λ .

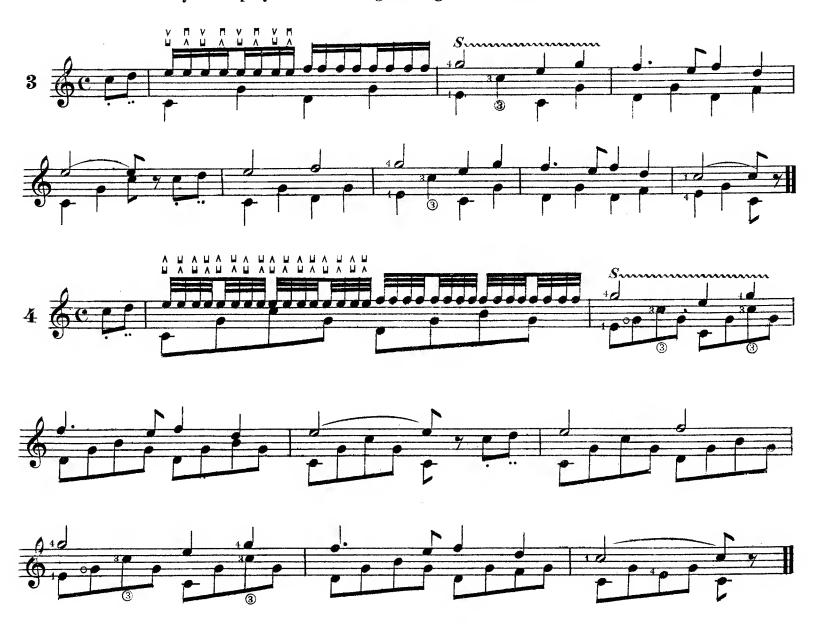
In the following exercise the thumb and first finger must strike the strings together, commencing with the first finger on the up stroke, and then with the down stroke when repeating.



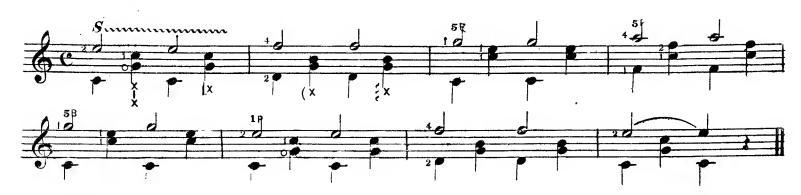
The student having mastered the above can proceed with the following, making two alternate strokes with the first finger to one stroke of the thumb.



The student may now play the following throughout. First time A H. Second time HA.



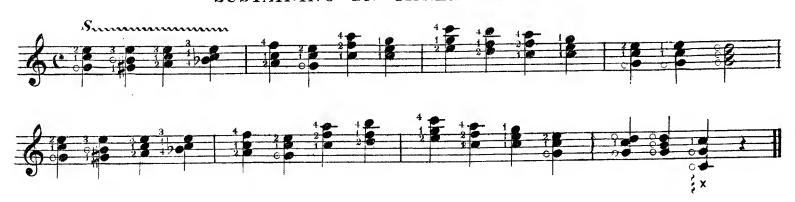
In the following exercise two strings are introduced in the thumb accompaniment which must be struck together. Such thumb action is indicated thus:- \(\frac{\chi}{\chi} \) or \(\(\x \), or \(\x \), Reverse the order of the strokes as in the preceding exercises.



SUSTAINING ON TWO STRINGS.



SUSTAINING ON THREE STRINGS.







For Solos introducing Sostenuto:—"Le Charme." "Dreamland." "San Diego." "Home Sweet Home." For Eyercises:— Parke Hunter's "Artistic Banjo Studies." See Dallas' Banjo List.

OR

PLECTRUM PLAYING.

The popularity with which this effective style of banjo-playing has become attended in recent years is entitled to special exposition in a work such as the "Modern School."

Plectring rests principally on the two and fro action over the strings of a small suitably-shaped piece of tortoise-shell called a plectrum (derived from a Greek word which means "to strike.")

The general consensus of opinion is that a stiff plectrum is to be preferred to a slender one, for the reason that all necessary flexibility may be obtained from the first joint of the first finger.

Plectring may be met with in two special forms, viz:- Tremolo and Technique. Tremolo requires so many strokes to be taken to the same note.

Technique demands the use of but one stroke to each note, whether of the same or of different pitch. It also embraces all the mechanical movements of the plectrum that are employed to promote the facile execution of detached notes.

The plectrum is usually plied to the strings slightly inclined in the direction of the down stroke and, at first attempt, about one inch from the bridge. It must be "gripped," (not in a vice-like manner,) between the finger and thumb, so that the finger can bend freely at the first joint. The flexibility obtained from the finger is always the same and does not vary with the amount of material (tortoise-shell) taken up by the plectrum in each different stroke. The conscientious teacher will give his first consideration to the proper 'grip' of the plectrum.

The little finger 'its tip, nail or first joint' may rest, or slide along with the motion of the hand on the vellum at times. It is only the accomplished plectrist who can dispense entirely with the finger-rest.

The down and up strokes of the plectrum are indicated or symbolised thus:-Down stroke u. Up stroke A.

EXERCISES.

The student now comes to the preliminary exercises which are calculated to lead up to the Tremole.

He is advised not to take up the study of plectring devoting his entire attention to it to the exclusion of everything else, but to get in a certain amount of practice daily along with his other banjo work. In Tremolo, as in Sostenuto, progress is at first slow.

EXAMPLES.



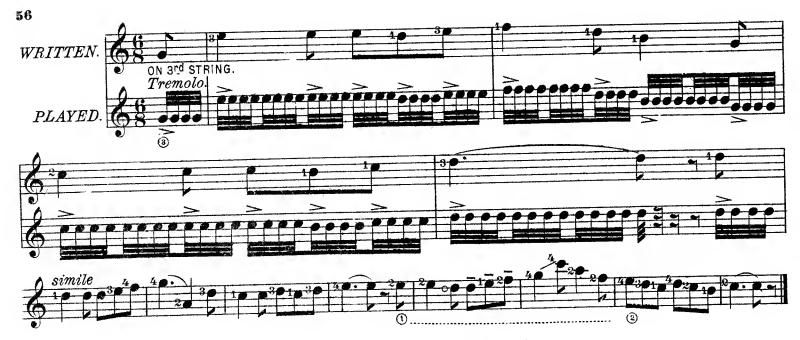




SCALE.



This scale should be practised daily according to the above examples 1.2. and 3. By way of relief from tedium the student may follow on with the melody on the following page.



THE PLECTRO-GLIDES.

 $DOWN\text{-}GLIDE = \sqcup - \sqcup or \sqcup - UP\text{-}GLIDE = \land - \land or \land -$

The glides are very useful aids to rapid execution in plectrum technique. On account of its difficulty of acquirement the up-glide is seldom used except in very advanced music.



P = POINT.

S and S = SHOULDERS.

PBS = BEVEL.

STSP = TIP.

This type of plectrum differs from all other models in having a sharp pointed tip instead of a rounded blunt one. Its point is formed by the meeting of two concave surfaces called bevels (PBS), which must be perfectly smooth. When the point (P) wears dull from playing the plectrum will require re-pointing. If the distance between T and P is too great the point (P) will not pass over the strings freely. If the distance

between T and P is too little the shoulders (S & S) will catch in the strings. The accompanying illustration (enlarged half a size to display its features) will be suf-

ficient to give a clear idea of the nature of the new model plectrum to the student who is about to take on with the study of plectring. This subject is dealt with more fully in Dallas' "Thirty Studies in Banjo Plectring" (Kennedy) the object of which work is to enable the student to acthe object of which work is to enable the student to acquire what professional plectrists call the plectral touch. Plectring is an interesting study when the student gets over the breaking-in stages. It opens up a world of sustained popular melody that the short, picked notes of ordinary pizzicato do not permit.

For examples of Plectrum Tremolo the student is referred to:- "Au Revoir" "Zanoni" "Zada"

Waltz. and "Dora" (See Dallas' Banjo List) And for examples of Plectrum Technique to:- "Newport Galop." (Fun and Frolic). "On the Mill Dam" (Fanfar des Dragons). "Skirt Dance": "Mexican Serenade": "Memories of the Past" "Hiawatha". "Coons' Regimental March" (Kennedy's arrangements.)

Plectrum Banjo Quartettes. "Memories of the Past" and "Coons' Regimental." Solo 1st, 2nd and 3rd Banjo.

CHORD-FINGERING.

One of the most important branches of Banjo study is that which deals with the proper fingering of chords. Single fingers are used for single notes, and set groups of fingers are used for chords. When a group is set, or formed up in readiness to produce a chord, the fingers are said to have assumed a chord-fingering. For example, take the three-one-two chord in the 1st Position:-

On the fingerboard the fingers would range up thus:
and would present the shape of a triangle 1. Other chords bring

the fingers into a variety of shapes but the English language has no descriptive names for them. The 3-1-2 chord at the 1st 5th 10th or at any position may be called, for purposes of explaining the foundation of chord-fingering, a triangle chord.

Likewise the 2 are also triangle chords, or more correctly, triangular chord-formings. Chord-fingerings are always read from above downwards: 3-1-2 not 2-1-3 in example I.

CHORD-READING.

It will be evident that if the student knew all the chord-formings he would easily find the proper one if it is marked in the music. For instance if a chord is marked in the music he would have no difficulty in finding it on the fingerboard. It is not necessary for the student to know the names of notes so long as he knows where to finger them when he sees them on the stave.

When an experienced performer is engaged in studying out a new piece in chords, his attention is occupied with the chord-reading, rather than with the note-reading. He rightly thinks that it matters not what the name of a note might be, so long as he knows whereabouts on the fingerboard to obtain it. When the chords are unfingered, unpositioned and unfamiliar, he is apt to encounter a difficulty which would not exist if they were properly fingered and positioned. Thus, with the chord of C



Example 1. shews the chord only; Example 2. shews it properly fingered and positioned; and Example 3. shews it with the notes removed.

The chord-reading of Example 3. would be a four-two-one-one chord in the twelfth position.

When two or more figures before a chord are alike a barré is already indicated, so that the use of the letter B in 12 PB is deadletter or superfluous.

All the chords, or rather chord-fingerings on the instrument, can be described verbally or on paper in this manner.

The value of having the principles of left-hand chord-fingering reduced to a system. combined with a method of reading, writing and speaking of the various chord-fingerings. is that it enables the teacher to explain to the pupil the finger-board of the Banjo systematically.

The above subject is dealt with in greater detail than a general work such as this will permit, in Dallas' "Star Banjo Accompanist" (Kennedy)

CHORD-PLAYING

MODULATION.







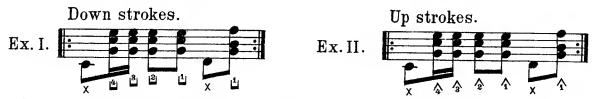
ALLA SPAGNOLA.

The "Alla Spagnola" method of performance consists in adapting the Spanish style of guitar manipulation to the Banjo. When employed Alla Spagnola is distinguished principally by its florid showy appearance, and is characterized by a spirit of apparent abandonment. It therefore finds favour when displayed on the concert stage. On the Continent it is more frequently used for elaborating accompaniments to vocal and instrumental solos. The tempo that probably best lends itself to Alla Spagnola is the Bolero which is of Spanish origin.

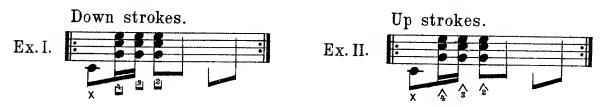
In these pages it is only purposed to touch upon this branch of the Banjo art in light manner so as to give the student a first general impression of the subject. It must suffice

under these circumstances to give but illustrations of the alla spagnola movement.

Explanatory. All strokes across the strings from low to high are called down strokes and are indicated thus \square . If it is desired to strike with any particular finger, the number of that finger is inserted thus \square or \square or \square and so on. The same applies to the upstroke which is indicated thus \wedge and thus \wedge or \wedge or \wedge or \wedge &c. \times Thumb pick.



In the above examples the fingers should move like the opening or closing of a collapsable fan-one rib at a time— the knuckle joint remaining stationary like the pivot or centre of the fan. To move the hand and fingers at the same time produces abortive results. At the commencement of practice it is better to take Examples I and II in the manner below, and then practise each bar complete afterwards:-



OBSERVATIONS.

A chord may be played either down or up with all the fingers in succession. In which case it will be of longer duration.

A chord may be played with all the fingers downwards and upwards without interruption - and vice versa. Then its duration will be longer still.

A chord may be sustained indefinitely by repeated or continuous alternate sweeps with all the fingers.

It is however out of the province and beyond the scope of any work dealing with the general principles of Banjo playing to include the higher branches of the art in detail, between its covers. The interested student is accordingly referred to Dallas' "The Banjo, Alla Spagnola" (Kennedy)

END OF TUTOR.

NOTE. For the benefit of those who may wish to vary or relieve their study by a little occasional amusement a few popular selections with Banjo or Piano accompaniment are appended.

APPENDIX.

DICTIONARY OF SIGNS, TERMS AND ABREVIATIONS.

A = for, by, in, to.

Accelerando; gradually increase the tempo.

Accordatura; Tuning. The Acc: of the Banjo is D.B.G.

C.G. reading from 1st string downwards.

Adagio; Very slow.

Allegretto. Tempo between Allegro and Andante.

Allegro; Lively.

Al; To the. Dal; From the.

Alla Spagnola or Spanish style.

Alternants: x... in Alternate picking.

Andante; Fluently.

Arpeggio; Playing the notes of a chord in quick succession.

Cadence or Cadenza; An ornamental passage.

Chanterelle; The first or melody string of an instru-

Coda; The end.

Col; with. Colla; with the. Con; with.

Da Capo, D.C.; Begin again.

Drumming; Hammering the strings with the right hand

thumb. Used in Alla Spagnola style.

Étouffé; Stifled, smothered, damped tone.

Fine; the end.

Forte; f. loud, strong.

Fortissimo; ff, very loud.

Pause, A, to prolong a note or rest.

Piano; p, soft.

Pianissimo; pp, very soft.

Presto; very quick.

Primo; the first.

Rasgado; Drawing the thumb or fingers across the strings to produce an arpeggio effect. Much used in the Spanish style of playing.

Ritardo; Delay by degrees, abbreviated, ritar.

Ritenuto: Delay at once, abbreviated, rit.

Rallentando; rall. Slower

Rullando; Rolling drum-like on the vellum.

Sostenuto; S. Self accompanied style

Slide; light line between notes. In Glissando the intermediate notes are picked, in Slide, not.

Staccato; short and distinct.

% = Segno or Sign.

Vivace: quick, brisk, light.

Volti Subito, V.S; turn over quickly

Tacet: Silent.

/ Slur - Snap \

H or L H (capitals)= left hand harmonic

R H = right hand harmonic

Glide (glissando) strike intermediate notes.

-- = Slide Do. not strike intermediate notes.

= Pause on note or on rest.

% = Ordinary sign to refer to from one place to another

= Usual Coda Sign.

m = Tremolo.

p = Tremolo.

V.m = Vibrato.

🟲 = Vibrato.

SIGNS.

① ② ③ ④ &c = circlets. Usually placed under notes to indicate upon which strings the notes above them are to be played.

a note with an additional semiquaver stem = Old stye of indicating the short or Octave string

Finger.

Finger.

□ = Plectral sign for Down stroke

^= ,, ,, Up ,,

□ — or □ — □) Plectroglides { Down-glide Up-glide

First finger-pick (In alternate picking

and do these are called

Thumb-pick Alternants

S.... Sustain. Signs used in Sostenuto

See Dallas "Banjo Alla Spagnola" (Kennedy) x -x Thumb glide. Alla Spagnola Signs. Finger glide. 1st or Strike the and 2 orstrings down- grd or 3 wards with the or | 4 | 4th LX; Thumb Λ 1st \mathbf{or} Strike the \triangle 2nd or string upgrd /3\ orwards with the 14 4th \mathbf{or} Thumb

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OLD FOLKS AT HOME.



MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME.



They hunt no more for the possum and the coon, On the meadow, the hill, or the shore, They sing no more by the glimmer of the moon, On the bench by the old cabin door, The day goes by like a shadow o'er the heart,

With sorrow, where all was delight,

The time has come when the darkies have to part, Then my old Kentucky home, good night.

CHORUS. Weep no more & c.

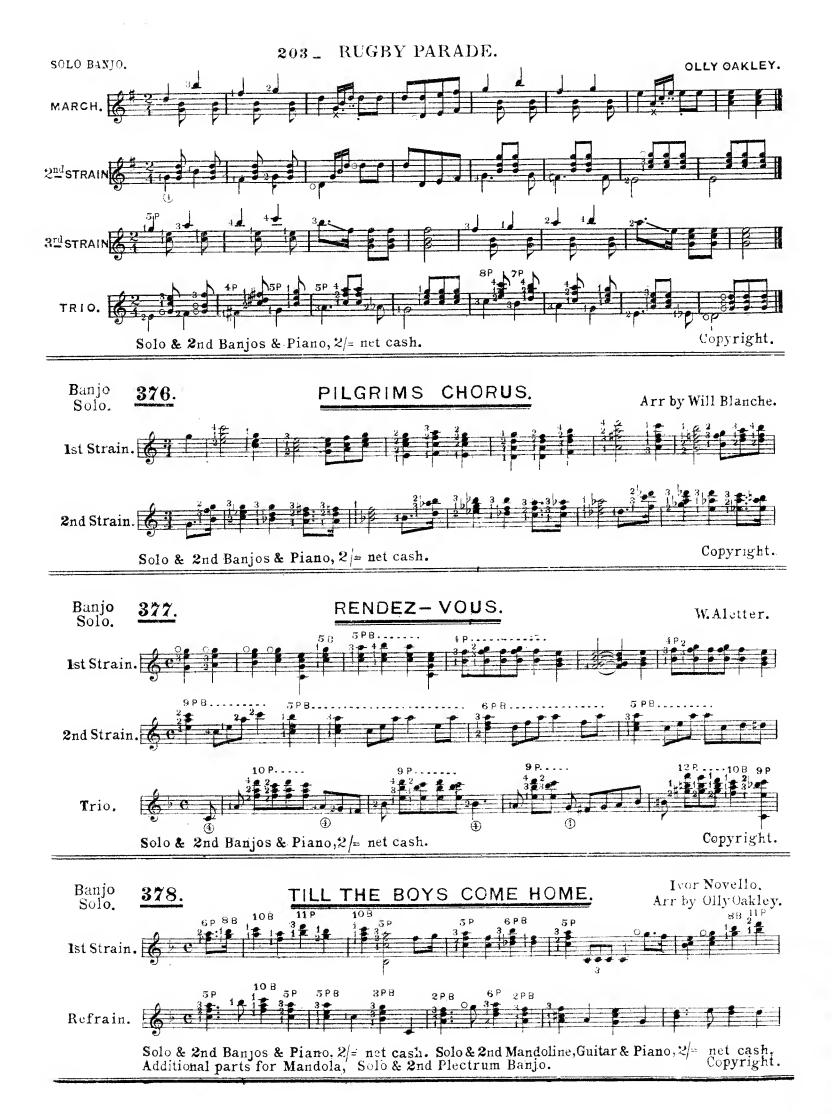
The head must bow and the back will have to bend, Where ever the darkie may go,

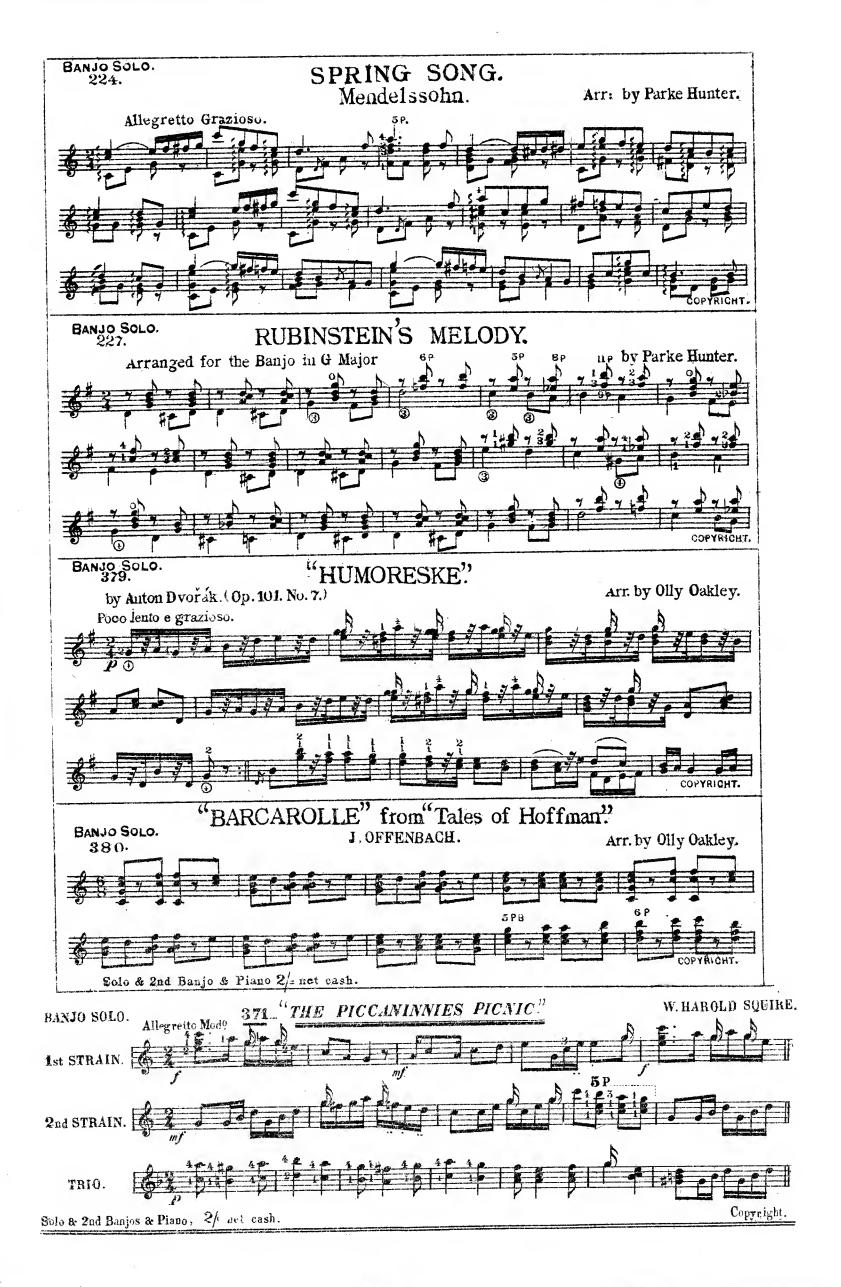
A few more days and the trouble all will end, In the field where the sugar canes grow,

A few more days for to tote the weary load, No matter, 'twill never be light,

A few more days till we totter on the road, Then my old Kentucky home, good night.

CHORUS. Weep no more & c.





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